

HO-929  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court, Columbia  
Howard County, Maryland

The Dasher Farm springhouse is located northwest of Cradlerock Farm Court, in the trees southwest of a storm-water management pond in the Village of Owen Brown in Columbia, central Howard County, Maryland. It faces north toward Cradlerock School, and is the only building surviving from the Dasher Farm. The building is a one-story, one-bay square rubble stone structure that is stuccoed and has a gable roof with a north-south ridge and inverted-v-seam metal. The gable ends have board-and-batten siding. The interior is parged and whitewashed. There is no evidence of a trough on the floor. North of the springhouse is a stone cover for a springhead, with a short wall to the west. The south side of the springhouse has a hole at the base, to the east, with a channel running south that is made of stacked stones that are partly squared. This formerly carried water to the stream about 20 feet to the south. To the east of the springhouse are several large stones set into the hill providing steps down to the springhouse.

After the death of Hammond Dorsey his Elkhorn Farm was divided among his heirs and lot five of this division, consisting of 90 acres, was sold in 1919 to Maurice and Dora Dasher. According to Grace Dasher's recollections, her father-in-law started in 1918, probably taking possession before the deed to the property had been executed. By the late 1940s Dasher's sons, Irvin and George, had joined him and the business was known as M. E. Dasher & Sons. They added 480 acres in 1949, though Maurice continued to live on his original 90-acre tract. The Rouse Company purchased most of the farm in 1963 as part of the development of Columbia, with the Dashers retaining five acres with the house and outbuildings. The Dasher Green neighborhood of the Village of Owen Brown, and several schools, were built on much of the farm land. Grace Dasher sold off the remainder of the farm to a trust for her children in 1993, and they sold the land to a developer. All of the buildings except the springhouse were demolished in 1995 and townhouses built on the property. Photographs of the property show a 1 1/2-story frame house with a gable roof and a small cross-gable on the front that held a lunette. The house had a three-bay front and was four bays deep, with a two-story ell on the rear. There was a one-story porch across the whole front. The front door was apparently in the center, and there was paired sash in the center of the second story. Also on the property were a one-story frame barn or stable and several other frame sheds, as well as the springhouse. At least the house and springhouse must have predated the Dasher's ownership of the farm. It was probably a tenant farm of Dorsey's, since he lived in a stone house on the farm (which burned in 1971).

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-929

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dasher Farm  
other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number Cradlerock Farm Court \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Columbia X vicinity  
county Howard

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Cradlerock Farm Homeowners  
street and number 839 Elkridge Landing 'road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Linthicum state MD zip code 21090

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 36-46  
city, town Ellicott City liber 4500 folio 410

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			<u>0</u>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-929

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### Condition

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> altered                 |

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dasher Farm Springhouse is located northwest of Cradlerock Farm Court, in the trees southwest of a storm-water management pond in the Village of Owen Brown in Columbia, central Howard County, Maryland. It faces north toward Cradlerock School, and is the only building surviving from the Dasher Farm.

The building is a one-story, one-bay square rubble stone structure that is stuccoed and has a gable roof with a north-south ridge and inverted-v-seam metal. The gable ends have board-and-batten siding. The north elevation has a doorway, with the door missing. There are window openings on the east and west elevations, and the openings have been enlarged because stones have been broken out. The window frames are on the ground and are constructed with cut nails. The eaves are open.

The interior is parged and whitewashed. There is no evidence of a trough on the floor. The roof has circular-sawn rafters that are mitered and butted at the ridge, and fastened with wire nails.

North of the springhouse is a stone cover for a springhead, with a short wall to the west. The south side of the springhouse has a hole at the base, to the east, with a channel running south that is made of stacked stones that are partly squared. This formerly carried water to the stream about 20 feet to the south. To the east of the springhouse are several large stones set into the hill providing steps down to the springhouse.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-929

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

After the death of Hammond Dorsey his Elkhorn Farm was divided among his heirs and lot five of this division, consisting of 90 acres, was sold in 1919 to Maurice and Dora Dasher. According to Grace Dasher's recollections, her father-in-law started in 1918, probably taking possession before the deed to the property had been executed. By the late 1940s Dasher's sons, Irvin and George, had joined him and the business was known as M. E. Dasher & Sons. They added 480 acres in 1949, though Maurice continued to live on his original 90-acre tract. The Rouse Company purchased most of the farm in 1963 as part of the development of Columbia, with the Dashers retaining five acres with the house and outbuildings. This was a common pattern with Rouse's development, with the intention apparently that the remaining land would be too small to develop and the old buildings would be protected. Farming continued on the land for some years after, since only portions of the large tract were developed at a time, but the cows were removed from the farm in 1976. The Dasher Green neighborhood of the Village of Owen Brown, and several schools, were built on much of the farm land. Grace Dasher sold off the remainder of the farm to a trust for her children in 1993, and they sold the land to a developer. All of the buildings but the springhouse were demolished in 1995 and townhouses built on the property. This action again spurred futile calls for tougher local historic preservation laws.

Photographs of the property show a 1 1/2-story frame house with a gable roof and a small cross-gable on the front that held a lunette. The house had a three-bay front and was four bays deep, with a two-story ell on the rear. There was a one-story porch across the whole front. The front door was apparently in the center, and there was paired sash in the center of the second story. Also on the property were a one-story frame barn or stable and several other frame sheds, as well as the springhouse. At least the house and springhouse must have predated the Dasher's ownership of the farm. It was probably a tenant farm of Dorsey's, since he lived in a stone house on the farm (which burned in 1971).

Notes:

"Port in a Storm," Howard County Times, 21 February 1991, pp. 38-40. Kristen Henley-Hills, "Local Push to put Teeth in Historic Preservation," Columbia Flyer 23 March 1995. Copies of the articles and photographs are in the collection of Ms. Stephanie Noonan and her students at Cradlerock School, who generously shared them with me.

Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (Author, 1987), pp. 416-19.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet. Footnotes.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .5 A

Acreage of historical setting 90 A

Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary runs just southeast of the pond, north to the property line, west along the property line 300 feet, south to the stream, and along the stream back to the pond.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 7/23/2007

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

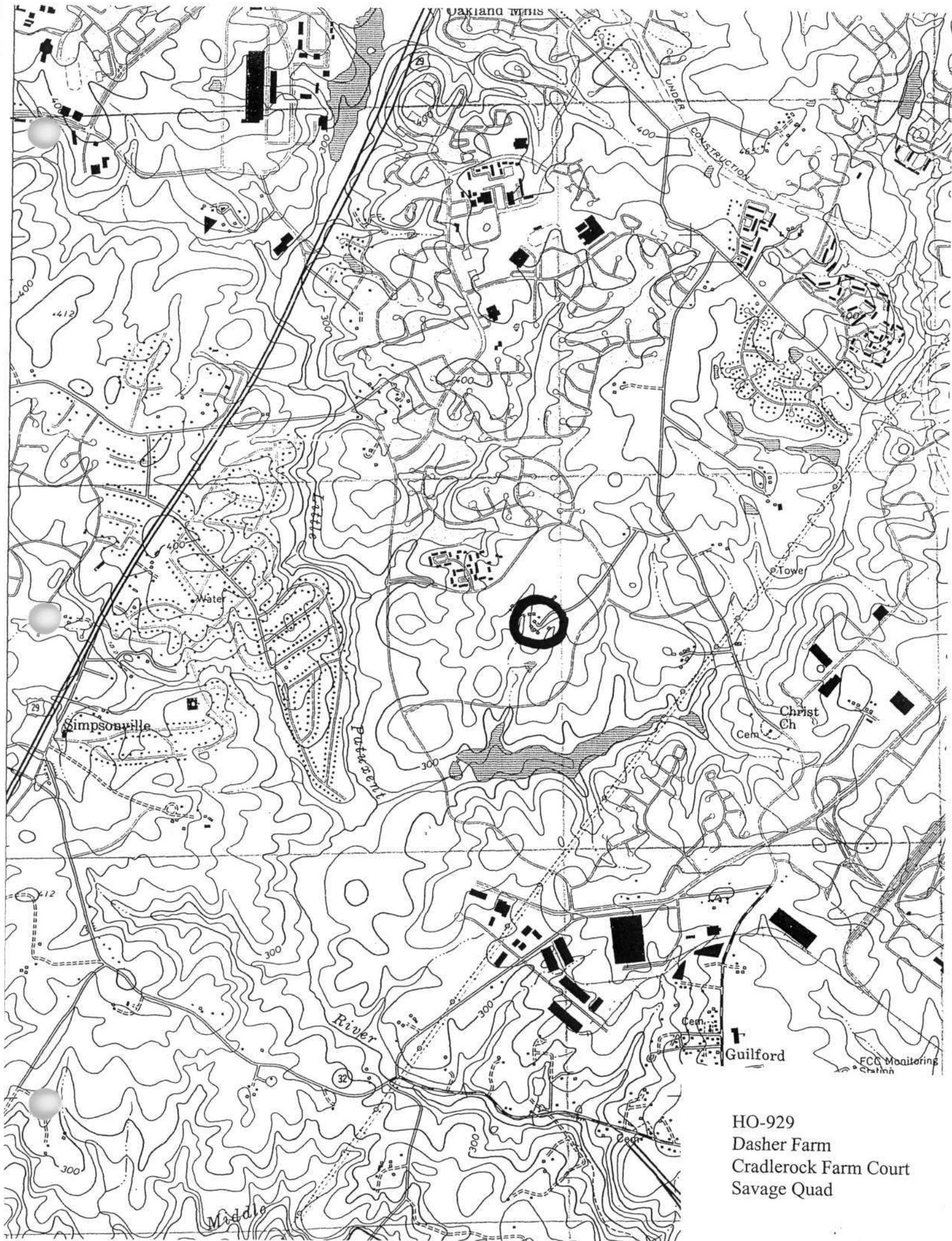
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

**HO-929 Dasher Farm**  
**Cradlerock Farm Court**  
**CHAIN OF TITLE**

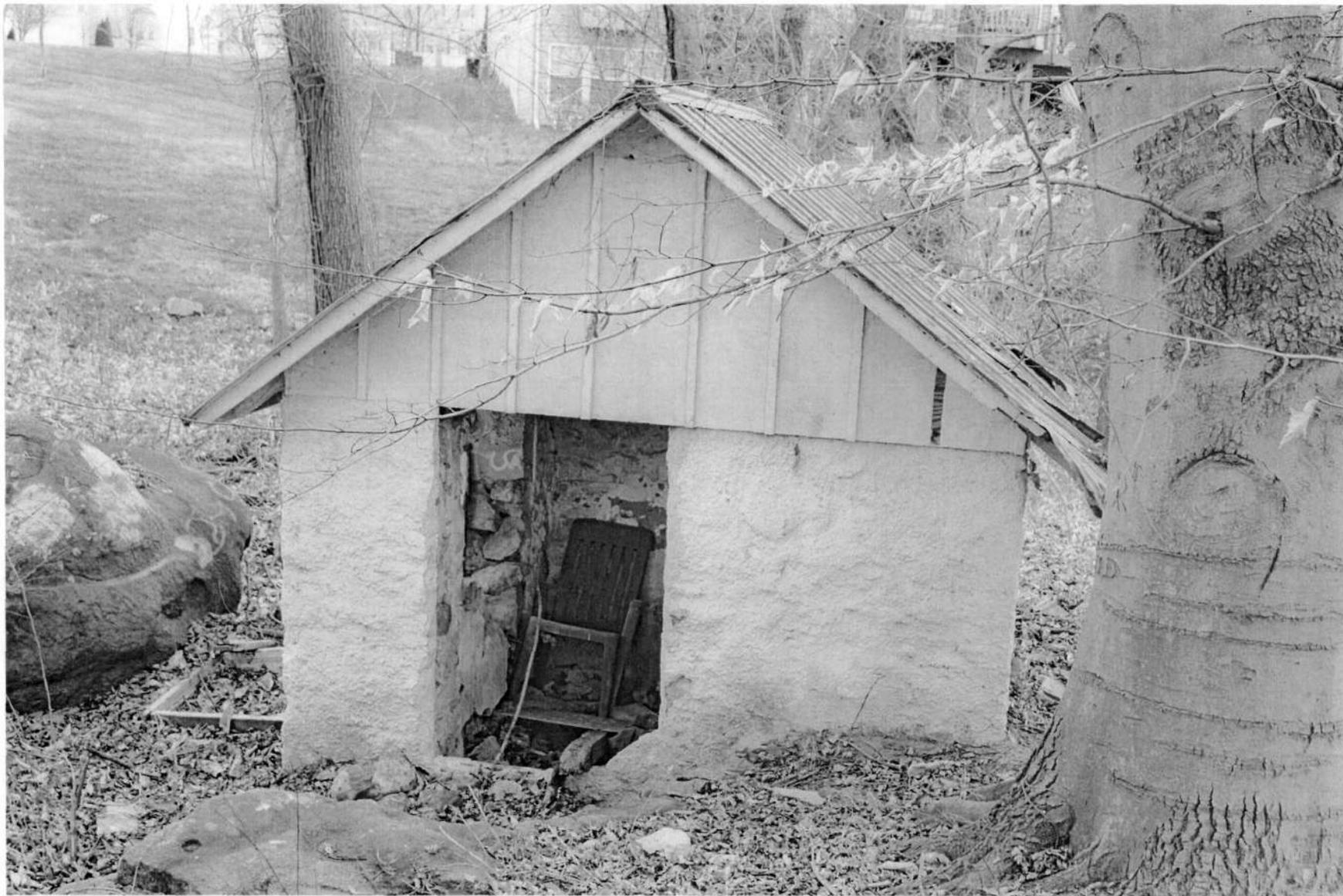
GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Howard Research & Development Corp./MD	Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W)/?	12.7.1982	CMP 1138-553	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	1) .567 A 2) .092 A 3) .340 A	
C. Aileen Ames/?	Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W)/?	2.6.1968	CMP 482-510	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	5A	2 parcels
Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W) Maurice E. & Dora V. Dasher (H/W)/?	C. Aileen Ames	2.6.1968	DMP 482-507	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	1) 5 A 2) 4A 3) 6A 4) .798 A 5) .243 A	
Howard Research & Development Corp./MD	Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W) Maurice E. & Dora V. Dasher (H/W)/?	2.6.1968	CMP 482-504	Deed - fee simple	\$4.00	a) .798 A b) .243 A	
Potomac Estates, Inc./MD	Howard Research & Development Corp./MD	5.31.1963	WHH 400-727	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	?	8 separate tracts
Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W/ George H. & H. Marie Dasher (H/W) Maurice E. & Dora V. Dasher (H/W)	Potomac Estates, Inc./MD	5.9.1963	399-480	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	697.505 A - 10.9 A - 1.2 A - 6 A - 4 A -5A = 670 A	
Maurice E. & Dora V. Dasher (H/W)/Howard	Irvin P. & Grace M. Dasher (H/W) George H. & H. Marie Dasher (H/W)/?	11.18.1958	RHM 323-515	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	x) 90A -5+ A - .7A -1.2 A y) 16A - .2A z) 101A - .4A = 200 A	x) farm on which Grantors have resided for years
Thomas Hardy Jarvis & wf. Nettie E./Howard	M. E. Dasher & Sons	1.4.1949	208-151	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	480.3 A	2 farms

**HO-929 Dasher Farm**  
**Cradlerock Farm Court**  
**CHAIN OF TITLE**

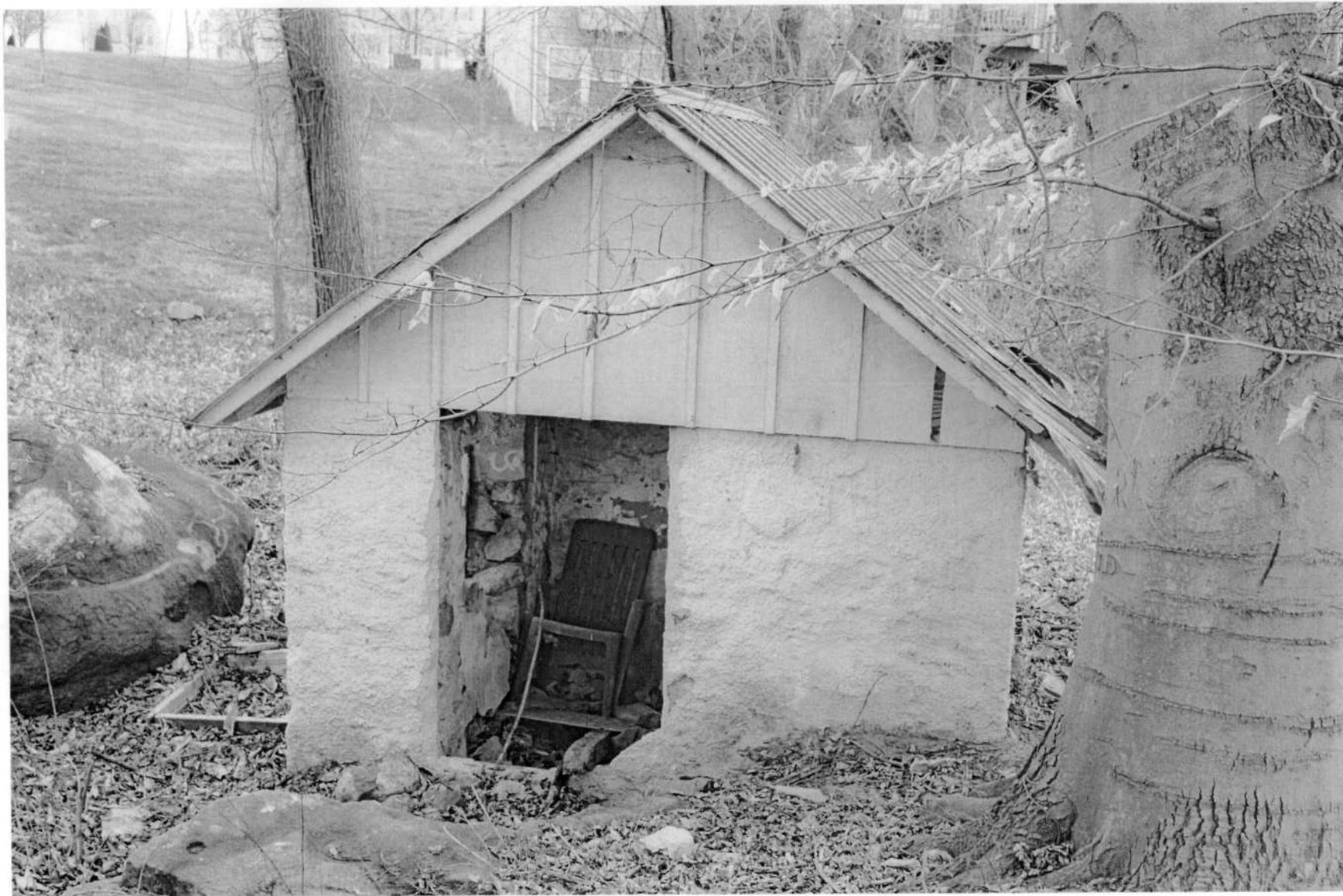
GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Howard Dorsey/Howard	Maurice E. & Dora V. Dasher (H/W)/Howard	6.6.1919	107-437	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	90-3-20 ARP	Lot 5 of Elkhorn Farm of late Hammond Dorsey
Elizabeth Z. Dorsey	Hammond Dorsey	7.31.1857	WHW 18-309				
Reuben M. Dorsey	Hammond Dorsey	12.30.1869	WWW 30-55				



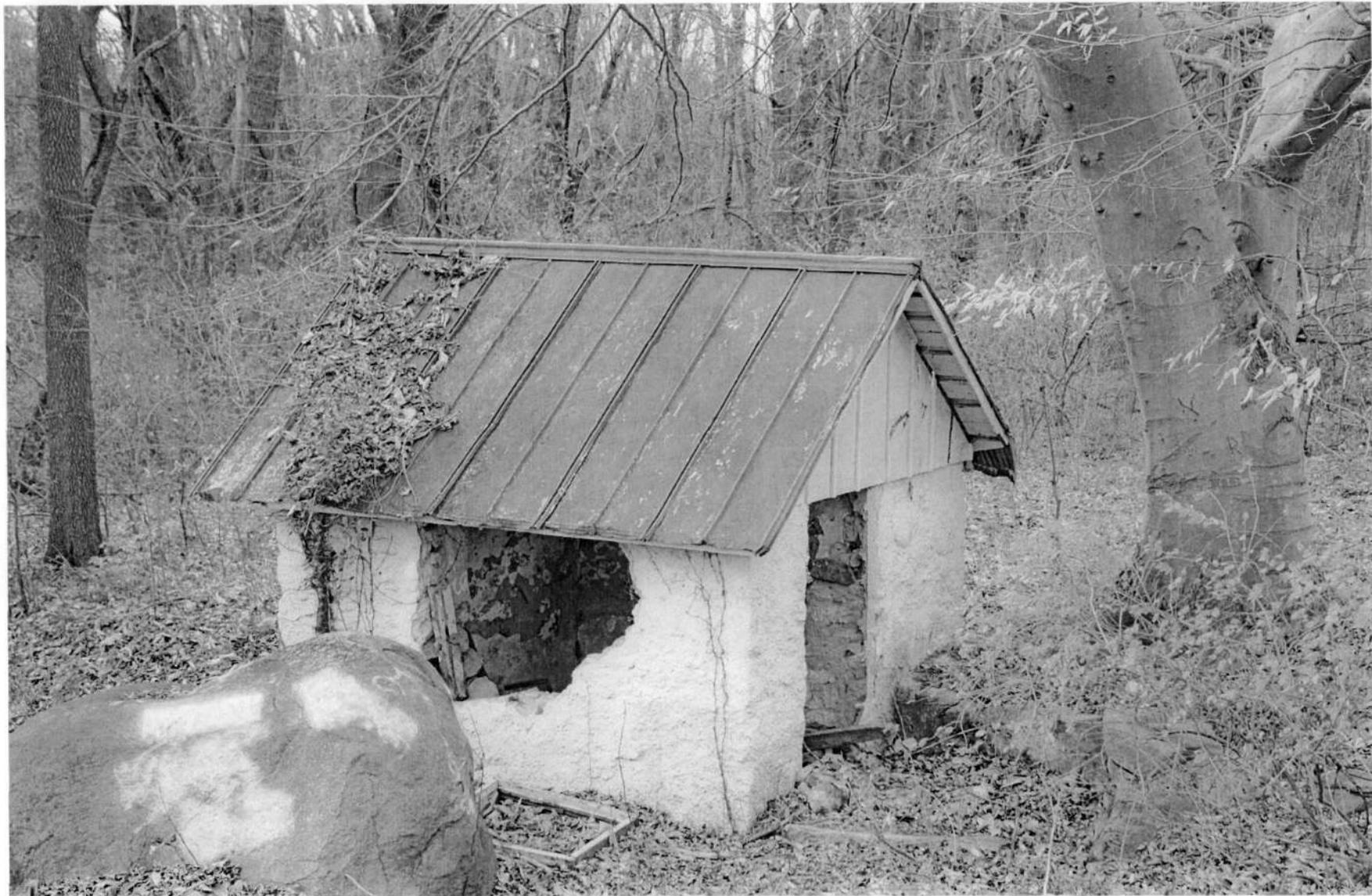
HO-929  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court  
Savage Quad



HO-929 Dasher Farm Cradlerock Farm Court Springhouse, north elevation  
Ken Short, December 2006 1/4



HO-929 Dasher Farm Cradlerock Farm Court Springhouse, north elevation  
Ken Short, December 2006 1/4



HO-929 Dasher Farm Cradlerock Farm Court Springhouse, east & north elevations  
Ken Short, December 2006 2/4



HO-929 Dasher Farm Cradlerock Farm Court Springhouse, south elevation  
Ken Short, December 2006 3/4



HO-929 Dasher Farm Cradlerock Farm Court Springhead cover north of springhouse  
Ken Short, December 2006 4/4

HO-0929\_20061208\_01  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court  
Howard County, Maryland  
Springhouse, north elevation  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
1/4

HO-0929\_20061208\_02  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court  
Howard County, Maryland  
Springhouse, east & north elevations  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
2/4

HO-0929\_20061208\_03  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court  
Howard County, Maryland  
Springhouse, south elevation  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
3/4

HO-0929\_20061208\_04  
Dasher Farm  
Cradlerock Farm Court  
Howard County, Maryland  
Springhead cover north of springhouse  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
4/4